

February 25, 1974

SENATOR KREMER: I don't know, we'll have to put the emergency clause on it. In other words, we'll put the emergency clause on it.

SENATOR CARPENTER: When we adopt the amendment then the bill says the speed limit's 55 m.p.h.?

SENATOR KREMER: That's right.

SENATOR CARPENTER: And that's what the Governor recommended?

SENATOR KREMER: That's right.

SENATOR CARPENTER: And that we are now going, I presume, indefinitely postpone Senator Duis' bill so this is all there is as far as speed is concerned.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis has asked that his bill, LB605, be withdrawn. Any further discussion, if not, the motion is to adopt standing committee amendments. All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, say nay. They are adopted. Further amendments on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, there are a series of amendments. The next one is offered by Senator DeCamp which would, on page 14, line 10, insert a new section 3 to read as follows: "The Department of Roads is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the speed of motor vehicles where such vehicles are geared to operate more efficiently as a speed in excess of the limit set by this act. Any motor vehicle in compliance with such rules and regulations shall not be in violation of any law governing speed limits." Signed, Senator DeCamp.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. This is a very simple amendment for a very simple purpose. The truckers have explained to me in various meetings in my district that the larger trucks operate more efficiently at 65 or 70 m.p.h. and use less gas than they actually do at 55 m.p.h. because of the gearing ratios and the way their engines are designed. This would allow the department of roads people through rule and regulation under certain circumstances to allow these vehicles to go at the original speed if it could be established that they actually were using less fuel. So, in other words, it's an energy conservation measure and would also satisfy some of the problems of the truckers. Now, obviously some of the objections are what is going to happen if you have trucks going faster than cars. The answer is from everything I've been able to learn that would not be any problem. It would be safer than having cars going faster than trucks which is the way we have now. Your accident ratio for trucks per mile is much slower than automobiles. The other objection is well, would this jeopardize your federal highway funds. The answer is the department of roads obviously would not adopt the rule or regulation to allow this if there were any chance of jeopardizing it. So, it's merely a provision that would allow them under certain conditions or circumstances to let these trucks operate at the most efficient and economical speed and conditions.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, on the amendment.

SENATOR KREMER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to speak against the amendment. When this bill was heard before committee, the representatives of the truckers, at least he had some representation, I asked him the question. Do you think we can afford to gamble with what the federal government will do.....

(End of Belt #7)